



Lake Afton Public Observatory

FOR: Immediate Release

FROM: Lake Afton Public Observatory
WSU Fairmount Center for Science and Mathematics Education
Robert Henry (316) 978-3991 or Greg Novacek, (316) 978-3854

DATE: April 28, 2014

RE: Lake Afton Public Observatory.

Science and Imagination on Mother's Day Weekend

Mothers have an imagination too and it needs to be nourished. Bring your Mom or Grandma out to the Lake Afton Public Observatory over Mothers' Day Weekend and they will get in FREE when accompanied by a paying child. They will experience the program *Worlds of Science and Imagination* where they can observe our closest celestial neighbor, the Moon, Saturn with its beautiful ring system and many moons; the mysterious red planet Mars and a multiple star system. While observing these objects, the Observatory staff will discuss some of the many science fiction stories related to these objects and what we actually know about them today. "*Worlds of Science and Imagination*" will be presented from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings, May 9th and 10th.

In addition to viewing through the telescope, the observatory's exhibit area gives visitors an opportunity to make a telescope, explore the properties of light, examine some of the wondrous features of Mars, discover the science and the fiction surrounding worlds beyond our reach but not our imagination, or build and launch the Space Shuttle by answering astronomy questions. Outside, there are also small telescopes and binoculars available for visitors to use to find objects in the night sky for themselves.

The Observatory is located about 20 miles southwest of downtown Wichita on MacArthur Road at 247th Street West in Lake Afton County Park. Admission to the Observatory is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children ages 6-12; children under 6 are admitted free. The Observatory is open Friday and Saturday evenings from 9:00 - 11:00 p.m. from May 1st through August 31st. Current programs and times and events taking place in the sky are available on our website at <http://webs.wichita.edu/lapo> or in a recorded message by calling WSU-STAR (316-978-7827).

The Lake Afton Public Observatory is operated by the Fairmount Center for Science and Mathematics Education, a part of the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Science at Wichita State University.

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Program Information:
(316) WSU-STAR
Internet:
webs.wichita.edu/lapo

Observatory:
20 mi. SW of downtown Wichita
on MacArthur Rd. at 247th St. W.
(316) 794-8995